

Roxbury, Dec. 7, 1855.

My dear Frank:

As the last letter received from Fanny was dated Nov. 7, it follows that some ten days longer than usual have transpired since we heard from our loved absent ones. This hiatus has seemed almost a whole year's flight to your daily expectant mother, and added something to a depression of spirits which she has felt for a fortnight past — mainly, owing, however, to her system being so thoroughly "stirred up" from the course of magnetic treatment which she is trying, and from which we are hoping for favorable results. In spite of her self-abnegation and habitual patience, she is feeling the absence of yourself and Fanny more and more as "an aching void," and this is not for her good; but as soon as we can procure for her a congenial companion and nurse, (and we are not without hopes that Miss Wiggins will consent to stay with us through the winter,) she will doubtless have her mind diverted, and become more cheerful. As there is a steamer on the way from Halifax to Boston, it is possible that, by to-night or at the latest by to-morrow morning, we shall receive tidings from you. Indeed, I shall confidently expect to see Mr. Vickers on her arrival. But as the foreign mail closes this afternoon, I do not deem it best to lose it, in order to announce the receipt of a letter from you or Fanny. Moreover, it may happen that none will come to hand.

On Monday afternoon, I went to Mrs. Peabody, in company with our friends Mr. and Mrs. Ashby of Newburyport, their niece Miss Putnam of Brookline, Miss Wiggins, Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Brigham, to have a "sitting." We had a very pleasant time, and the Ashbys had some very satisfactory tests. On going to the house, I mentally said, "Charley, if you can indicate your presence this afternoon in some way, do so." So, as our circle was about breaking up, and I had obtained nothing, I pleasantly inquired, "Am I to get no test?" Instantly the medium said, turning to me, "Charley is here, and he reports having seen Franky only three hours ago; says he is in better health than when he left home — that he thinks a great deal of his brother-in-law — that he is having a tip-top time — that he sends his love to his mother, and to all at home — that his father has always been indulgent to him, and he hopes will be lenient if, with so many things to see, he shall not at first diligently give himself to the study of the languages — that some of the German food rather sticks a little in going down" — &c., &c. Mrs. Peabody knew nothing of Charley, and asked me who he was. I told "Sandy" what Dr. Jack had reported about the unhealthiness of Munnick, and she made very light of it; said we need not have any uneasiness on your account, and that she would keep us advised as to your physical condition. She said, moreover, that you were occasionally quivering in your mind, whether Sandy had communicated to us

anything respecting you or Fanny. I asked her whether your mother's impression, that you were homesick, was correct. She said, no; that you did indeed think often of home, and somewhat missed its daily love influences and surroundings, but that, nevertheless, you were satisfied that your foreign sojourn would be all for the best — a sojourn which she declared (as she had done before) would be more serviceable to you than going to college.

Harry, doubtless, will have a good laugh over this message, so far as the "spirits" are concerned; but he will certainly find in it nothing to object to. I record ^{it} simply as an incident that may interest you; and if you can confirm any portion of it, let me hear from you.

On Wednesday, I called upon my esteemed and venerable friend, Deacon Samuel May, to give him my congratulations upon the completion of his ninetieth year, with none of his faculties seriously impaired, and in very comfortable health. I expressed the hope that he might be permitted to see his hundredth anniversary, under the same favorable circumstances. If we are made for immortality, however, and death is nothing more than transition or a new birth, it is of comparatively little consequence how long we sojourn here below. "That life is long which answers life's great end."

On the 10th inst. I shall have completed my sixty-first year. As the average length of human existence is less than forty years for a generation, I have

transcended the ordinary limit by more than one third; and so must at all times be "ready for the flight, and ready to be gone." Not that I feel in the least the pressure of years, but, according to the laws of nature, which are neither to be evaded or countermanded, my summons may now come without surprise at any moment. With dear little Agnes upon my shoulder, I feel as if thirty years had been removed from the count; for all my children have been born by me in a similar manner, and the illusion is almost like a continuance of the series. She continues to grow finely, and is sunbeam and star to us all.

Congress has convened, and the President delivered his message. It is subdued and measured in its tone, though still stubbornly bent on the policy of reconstruction marked out by its upstart author. It is manifest already, that Congress is bent on carrying out its own programme, conscious that the people will expect nothing less, and perhaps will insist on something more. The popular feeling is cheering.

Dr. John S. Rock died a few days ago. He was an able man, both as a writer and a speaker, and has made his name historical by having been the first colored lawyer ever allowed to practise in the Supreme Court of the United States.

Henry Vincent, the eloquent English lecturer, gave a very spirited and stirring address on the relations of England to America during the rebellion, in

and before the Macombite Library Association on Wednesday evening. It was so well received that they have arranged for another lecture from him in Music Hall on Monday evening next - subject, Oliver Cromwell. His visit to this country will help to subserve the cause of international peace and amity.

We should like to know, when you or Fanny write again, whether Harry goes by the name of Villard or Hilgard in Munich. If by the former, how was the change explained or received by his relatives and acquaintances? If by the latter, is it not placing him in an awkward position to address letters to him as Henry Villard?

I leave to your mother the task (not a heavy one) of giving you such home and neighborhood incidents as may interest you both.

The season continues remarkably mild and pleasant. We are not without any snow or ice, and to-day is as soft and charming as any one in May.

I am still improving, though not without a good deal of pain in my shoulder. As soon as we can get some one to be with your mother, I shall sit down in earnest to see what I can do with my pen.

The wool business still continues paralyzed, with no bright prospects in the near future. If William feels a little blue and uneasy, he is to be excused. I am surprised that he is half as cheerful. But this is owing very much to the serenity of his partners.

Count upon my "indulgence" to any extent, so far as making your health an object of paramount consideration over the languages.

I have nothing further to communicate respecting the "Testimonial." I saw Mr. May the other day, but he said nothing of its progress. If any considerable addition had been made, I think he would have mentioned it. It will probably "hang fire" at fifteen or twenty thousand dollars. Whatever the sum, in view of my disabled condition for the past ten months, (wherein I have spent thousands with no income but my policy insurance,) it will indeed prove exceedingly opportune, and save me from great embarrassment and distress of mind. I am not apprised how long the Committee intend to keep the Testimonial open to subscription.

Our household affairs move along very smoothly. Katy and our girl Bridget get along like sisters, and both are very kind to your mother, and also to the baby.

A few days ago, we had another photographic picture taken of Rockledge. The "negative" looked very good, but no impression has yet been sent for my examination. The artist also took a stereoscopic view of the place. I will hereafter enclose a copy, if it shall prove satisfactory. I wish I could send you one of the large size; but yours will answer.

The colored people of Providence have invited me to participate in their celebration, of New Year's Day and the Emancipation Proclamation. I shall try to do so, but have declined to make any positive engagement.

George Thompson lectured to a rather dull and cold audience, at Fitchburg, last Sunday evening. Mr. McKim wishes him to go to Chicago, along with Judge Bond of Baltimore, to attend a Freedmen's meeting. He is yet undecided about going. In the Spring he will probably return to England.

Give our most friendly and respectful
salutations to all our German relatives at Mue-
nich. Your mother, in special, deeply sympathizes
with the good aunt in her affliction, of whom Fanny
speaks in such admiring and affectionate terms. We
hope she is greatly improved in regard to her lame-
ness. How gratified Fanny must be to have a
sister by her side! Harry's father we remember
with the regard due to his years, station, and rela-
tionship. Are you yet able to ask for bread and but-
ter in German? I send a father's blessing to you all.
W. L. G.